KING'S GAME ORIGIN

CHAPTER 12

STORY BY *NOBUAKI KANAZAWA*
ART BY *J-TA YAMADA*

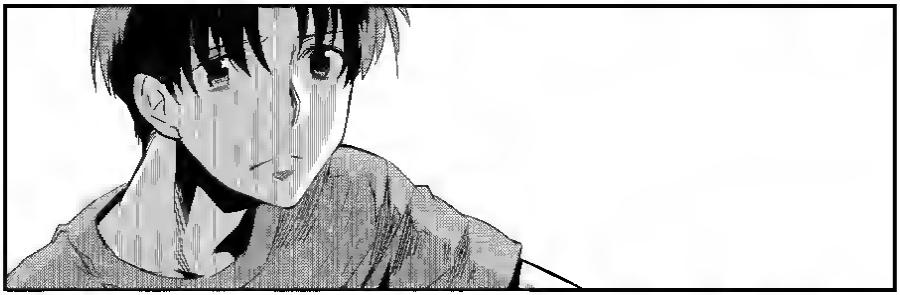
I MEAN, A BOY AND GIRL OUR AGE, ALONE--

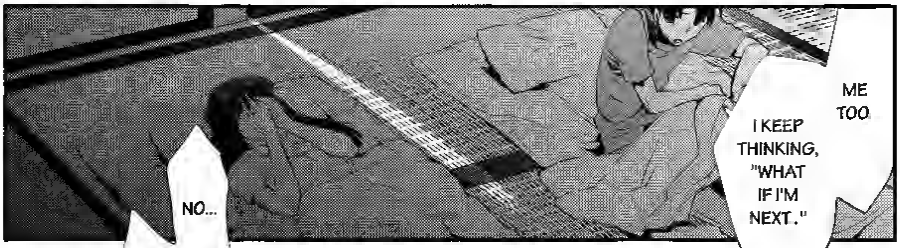
I DON'T WANT TO BE BY MYSELF.
NOT NOW...

YEAH...
I DEFINITELY GET THAT.
THE REMAINING VILLAGERS GAVE BLOOD SAMPLES TO MIYZAWA SAN LIKE HE ASKED.
THE OTHERS WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME, BUT SINCE THERE WERE VICTIMS AT BOTH NATSUKO'S AND MY HOUSES...
...HE HAD TO SLEEP HERE IN THE MEETING HALL.
WE DIDN'T OBJECT. NEITHER OF US WANTED TO TRY AND SLEEP IN THE HOUSES WHERE OUR FAMILIES HAD BEEN MURDERED
UMM, KAZU-NARI...?
WHAT IS IT, NATSUKO?

CLENCH
I KNOW IT'LL STOP IF WE FIND THE KING.
. I DON'T KNOW. BUT...
WHEN IS THE KING'S GAME GOING TO END, DO YOU THINK?
THE KING...
YEAH... TRUE.
I'M A HUNDRED PERCENT CONVINCED HE'S NOT ONE OF THE VILLAGERS.
NO ONE I KNOW IS CAPABLE OF THIS KIND OF BRUTALITY

DRIP
KAZUNARI...
I'M SCARED

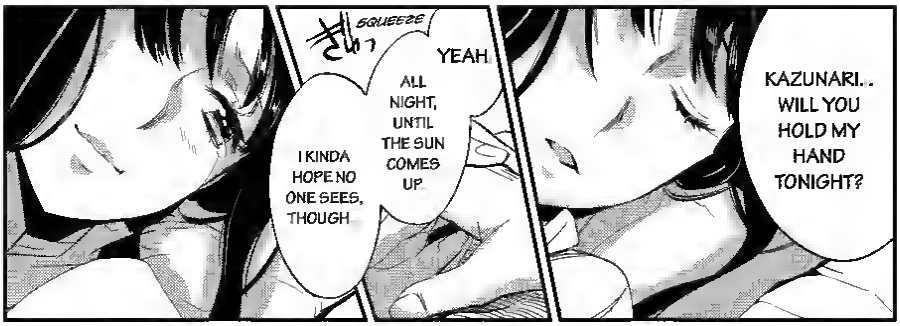



ME TOO
I KEEP THINKING, "WHAT IF I'M NEXT."
NO...

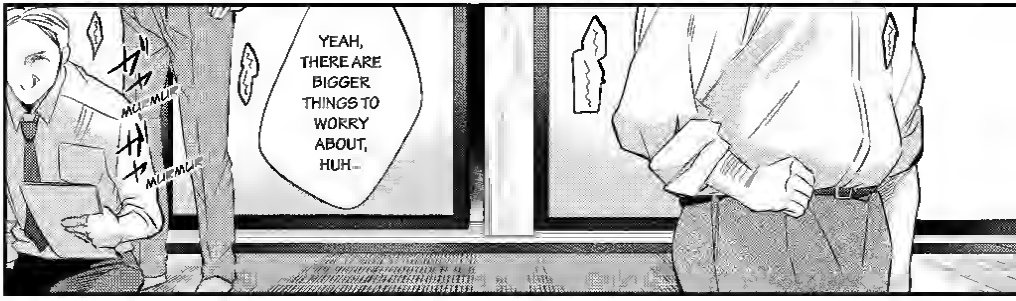
NOT THAT.

OF COURSE I'M SCARED OF DYING.. BUT I THINK OF YOU, AND EVERYONE ELSE..
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
I'M SCARED OF THE KING KILLING THE PERSON I LOVE MOST.
NATSUKO
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY

THE COPS ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO PROTECT US—
—AND MIYAZAWA-SAN SAYS HE'S GOT A THEORY ON WHO THE KING REALLY IS
R-RIGHT...
THIS NIGHTMARE WILL END SOON.
OKAY.. I GUESS WORRYING WON'T HELP ANYTHING ANYWAYS.
GRRRR
SQUEEZE
VERY SOON


KAZUNARI... WILL YOU HOLD MY HAND TONIGHT?
SQUEEZE
YEAH.
ALL NIGHT, UNTIL THE SUN COMES UP.
I KINDA HOPE NO ONE SEES, THOUGH.

I DON'T THINK PEOPLE CARE ABOUT US ANY-MORE


YEAH, THERE ARE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT, HUH-
MU-MU
MU-MU

I JUST WISH WE COULD'VE FOUND SOMEWHERE A LITTLE MORE ROMANTIC.

I DON'T CARE WHERE I AM, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU.
I LOVE YOU, NATSUKO
I SWEAR, IF NOTHING ELSE, I'LL PROTECT YOU
NO MATTER WHAT.

SATURDAY

AUGUST 13

8:53 A.M.

EACH BOX CONTAINS THE HEAD OF A VILLAGER WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE RECENT EVENTS.
EACH OF YOU IS TO TAKE ONE BOX AND PLACE IT IN FRONT OF THE BULLETIN BOARD.
..AND IN DOING SO COMPLETE TODAY'S ORDER FROM THE KING.

SHFF
GO WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.
I UNDER-STAND IF YOU NEED SOME TIME TO--
FLAP
TUP
TUP
TUP
TUNK
THERE, DONE.

GLANCE
WHY NOT JUST GET IT OUT OF THE WAY, GUYS?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO IT AT SOME POINT
NO SENSE IN WAITING
MICHIKO-SAN IS CORRECT.
I REALIZE YOU MAY BE HESITANT...
. BUT UNTIL WE CATCH THE KING, IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THE ORDERS...
...YOUR VERY LIVES ARE IN DANGER.

I'LL LEAVE YOU ALL TO IT.
WE'RE EXHAUST-ING ALL OUR RESOURCES SEARCHING FOR THE KING.
WE WON'T FORCE ANYONE, JUST DO IT BEFORE MIONIGHT.
SHFF

GRIP
TUP TUP
TUP
CRAK
TUP
TUP
TUP
THIS IS TOO CRUEL...

...THEY HAD TO BE BEHEADED AND PUT IN A BOX..!
IT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR THE KING TO MURDER THEM...
KAZU-NARI?!
TURN
JUST... NOT NOW...
I NEED SOME TIME TO MYSELF.
I KNOW!
WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THE KING'S ORDER, OR ELSE--!

I KNOW IT HAS TO BE DONE
THE LIVING TAKE PRIORITY.
PUTTING THE HEADS BY THE BULLETIN BOARD IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
BUT STILL SOMEHOW.

立入◎禁止
立入◎禁止
立入◎禁止
立入◎禁止
立入◎禁止
◎禁止
禁止
立入◎禁
立入
TAPE: POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

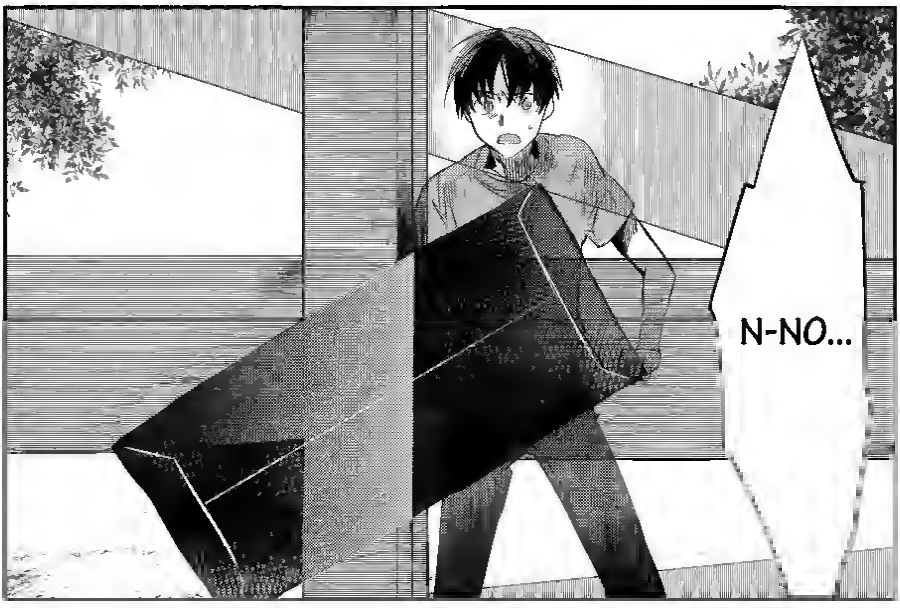
WHAT.
DAD.
GRAND-MA.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

SATURDAY

AUGUST 13

12:23 P.M.

立入◎禁止
立入◎禁止


N-NO...

THIS IS THE KING'S GAME.
ALL VILLAGERS ARE PARTICIPATING.
THE KING'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE.
PLEASE CARRY THEM OUT BY
THE END OF AUGUST 13TH.
PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO QUIT.
ORDER 7: HONDA KAZUNARI MUST GO TO
THE YAGURA LIMESTONE CAVE ALONE.
FAIL TO COME AND I WILL KILL EVERY
VILLAGER. TELL THE POLICE AND I WILL
KILL EVERY VILLAGER.

THE LETTERS ARE ALL SHAKY LIKE ALWAYS, BUT THE HANDWRITING LOOKS DIFFERENT.
IS THIS REALLY FROM THE KING?
BUT IF IT IS...
...FROM THE KING...
SOME-THING SEEMS OFF...
SHUDDER
I WILL KILL EVERY VILLAGER.

CLACK
DAMMIT!
I CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE!
IF THE KING'S IN THERE, I'LL CAPTURE HIM PERSONALLY!
AND PUT AN END TO THIS DAMN GAME!

GULP
SKUFF

SHIT, I FORGOT MY FLASHLIGHT...
THE SUN'S ENOUGH TO SEE BY HERE AT THE ENTRANCE, BUT ANY FURTHER AND IT'LL BE PITCH BLACK.
FLIP
A FEW YEARS AGO ME AND THE GANG EXPLORED THIS CAVE
IT WAS SO MUCH BIGGER AND DARKER THAN WE EXPECTED THAT WE HAD TO TURN AROUND
GLINT
I'LL HEAD BACK--
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO GO IN THE DARK.

SHINE
!!!
!
WH-WHO'S THERE?!
KAZU-NARI.. KUN?
ピチョン
DRIP
CRUNCH
ピチョン
DRIP
CRUNCH
ピチョン
DRIP
CRUNCH

AH-- YURI-SAN...?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
TAK TAK TAK
I GOT A LETTER AT MY HOUSE TELLING ME TO COME.
YOU TOO, HUH?
THERE WAS ONE AT THE ENTRANCE TO MY HOUSE.
I SAW SOME SNEAKER FOOT-PRINTS GOING INSIDE
HUH?
IT MAY NOT JUST BE US...

A MAN...
A LOT BIGGER THAN MY FEET TOO, SO IT'S PROBABLY A MAN
YES. THEY WERE QUITE FRESH LOOKING.
SNEAKER PRINTS? RECENT ONES?
BA-BUM
WAITING TO AMBUSH US IN THE DARKNESS OF THE CAVE.
MAYBE IT'S THE KING.
BA-BUM

GULP
TOWARDS THE UNDER-GROUND LAKE. IT'S ABOUT A FIVE MINUTE WALK
YURI-SAN, WHERE DID THOSE FOOT-PRINTS LEAD?
...
STAY BEHIND ME.
I'LL TAKE THE FLASH-LIGHT.
ALL RIGHT, COME ON.

SHIMMER
UP AHEAD...

KAZU-NARI-KUN, SOME-ONE'S DOWN THERE!
HUH?! WHERE--?

Y-
YUUJI?!
YUUJI!
YUUJI, CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?!
DAMMIT,
DON'T TELL
ME THE KING
CALLED HIM
OUT TOO?!

NGH...
I'VE GOTTA GET TO HIM BEFORE THE KING DOES!
I'LL FIND A WAY DOWN TO HIM!
AT THIS RATE, YUUJI-KUN COULD...
KAZUNARI-KUN, WHAT DO WE DO?
KAZUNARI-KUN...
WHAT IS IT, YURI-SAN?
THEN YUUJI MUST'VE BEEN--
IF THOSE WEREN'T FROM THE KING...
WAIT, THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER FOOT-PRINTS...

WHY DIDN'T YOU MAKE DAIKI TOUCH THE CORPSE, TOO?
WHA--?!
SHOVE